GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4398
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001
ECO-NORMS FOR POLLUTION
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL;CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy to provide and produce cost effective techniques of pollution control;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to fund the research institute and encourage industries to develop pollution free methods of production;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to make mandatory for Multinational companies to adopt safe eco-norms in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and
(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Integration of environmental considerations in the sectoral polices is envisaged for sustainable production and consumption patterns, proper management and conservation of natural resources. Prevention of pollution at sources and application of best available technology are propagated to minimize waste during industrial processes which will be economically viable in the long run. A National Environmental Action Plan is evolved which envisages control of pollution at sources and stipulates implementation of time bound programme entailing coordinated inter-departmental strategies. Emphasis is laid on the development of environmental standards, recognition of waste minimization environmental audit, simplification of consent procedures to protect the environment. Strict enforcement of various pollution control measures have been adopted within the legal framework. Methodologies such as Regional Environmental Qualities Management, Life Cycle Assessment in selected sectors, Natural Resources Accounting have been taken up.

(c) & (d) The scheme for promotion, development and adoption of clean technologies including waste reuse recycling has been launched which has benefited number of industries. Waste minimization circles have been formed to disseminate information to the shop floor level workers. This interaction has evolved various waste minimization options out of which the most acceptable are adopted as a measure for waste minimization and resource conservation. To introduce the concept of industrial ecology, a project has been taken up in selected industrial estates. Setting up of demonstration projects for implementations of cleaner technologies are provided through partial funding. National Productivity Council has developed cost effective pollution control systems in core industrial sectors like stone crushers, cement plants, mini steel plants, small industrial boilers etc. Waste minimisation demonstration projects in the sectors of electroplating, rice mills, dye and dye intermediates, edible oil, textiles, tanneries, agro-residue pulp and paper mills etc. have been implemented with an objective of waste minimisation/pollution prevention.

(e), (f) & (g) Effluent and Emission Standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for about 80 categories of industries. Besides, standards for ambient air and water quality have also been notified. These standards need to be complied with by the industry.